

Skills, Opportunities, and Recognition (SOAR)

Brief Program Description

SOAR is a scientifically-tested comprehensive, school-based program designed to promote positive youth development and academic success. The program is a schoolwide, school climate program for elementary schools that promotes the healthy development of young people by increasing skills for successful participation in the family, school, peer group and community; opportunities for active involvement in family and school; and consistent recognition for effort and improvement. A SOAR school provides social skills training for elementary students, training for their teachers to improve methods of classroom management, and instruction on providing developmentally sequenced parenting workshops for parents. The long-term results indicate that students in SOAR classrooms are more committed to school, have better academic achievement, and less misbehavior in the school and the community. SOAR was tested as the Seattle Social Development Project (SSDP), developed by Drs. J. David Hawkins and Richard Catalano of the University of Washington's Social Development Research Group, and is based on their Social Development Theory.

SOAR is focused on the positive development of children in the elementary school grades. The objective is to make a significant impact on known risk and protective factors for substance abuse, violence and aggressive behavior, and academic success before the critical middle school years when children are most typically beginning to engage in the range of risk behaviors. By increasing protection for children, and putting them on a positive trajectory, SOAR can help reduce the overall number of youth at-risk entering the middle school years.

Contact Information

For indepth information on this program, please use the contact listed below.

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